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ABSTRACT

This document is a bibliography of easy reading materials appropriate for adults who are beginning to read in English. It is divided into seven sections: (I) Leisure Reading; (II) Consumer Information; (III) Current Events, Politics in the U. S.; (IV) Health, Nutrition, and Family; (V) History and Biography; (Va) Contemporary Biographies; and (VI) Science. Titles were chosen on the basis of their appeal to a mature person. Many deal with some problem of American life. Vocabulary level is indicated for some titles. A key to abbreviations/acronyms used in the bibliography and brief descriptions of publishers' series are included. (Author/JDS)

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EASY READING MATERIALS FOR ADULTS LEARNING ENGLISH: 1976-1977
Revised edition

For those students whose first or second language is English and who are beginning to read in English, there is a small but growing collection of books and pamphlets meant to provide a supplement to class assignments. This "Easy Reading Collection" is shelved on a grey bookcart just north of the circulation desk on the fourth floor.

An attempt was made to choose each title on the basis of its possible appeal to a mature person. Many works deal with some problem of American life. A very few abridgements or simplified adaptations of "classics," have been included, but all materials which seemed patronizing or demeaning have been excluded. A few children's books have slipped in (but only on the advice of reading specialists) Finding a variety of materials has been oddly difficult. What is more disturbing is the sameness of tone found in all literary efforts for beginning readers.

To help in the selection of new titles, there is a bibliography: Reader Development Bibliography, 2d edition, compiled by the Reader Development Program of the Free Library of Philadelphia, published in 1974 by New Readers Press. Our call no. 016.428.F853 REF. Recommended titles are annotated and assigned a level of reading difficulty according to the Gunning Fog Index. In the list that follows on these pages, every title listed in the Reader Development Bibliography is marked here with a *. Only in these cases is a reading level mentioned, and that reading level is noted on pages 10 through 12, where the publishers and publisher series are described.

The Free Library of Philadelphia also distributes a newsletter PIVOT several times a year (available in librarian's office). The editors review newly released books and discuss trends in adult basic literacy.

The bibliography of our library's "Easy Reading Collection" is divided into the following sections:

I.	Leisure Reading:	pages 2-4
II.	Consumer Information	4-5
III.	Current events, Politics in the U.S.	5
IV.	Health, Nutrition, Family Life	5-6
V.	History and Biography	6-8
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	Appendix: Series and publishers: Key to abbreviations acronyms.	10-12

JC 760 501

Issued: September 27, 1976
Marjorie Feldman, Librarian

I. Leisure Reading

Allen, V.F. Reader's digest readings. Books 1, 2,3,4. 1961-

Boning, R.A. The Cardiff giant. 1972 (Inc)

Costinett, S. Advanced readings and conversations. 1973 (IML)

Crane, S. The red badge of courage. (El)

Dumas, A. The black tulip [abridged] (CME) 3000 word vocab. 1965

English Language Services. Cowboys in Alaska. 1964 (CME) 900 w.

_____. Fact or fiction? 1965 (CME) 3000 w.

_____. Four short mysteries. 1965 (CME) 3000w.

_____. The island of truth. 1965 (CME) 1500w.

_____. A magazine reader. 1968 (CME) 4000 w.

_____. The Mitchell family. 1965 (CME) 2000 w.

_____. The people speak. 1964 (CMI) 500 w.

_____. The Russells of Hollytree Circle. 1965 (CME) 3000 w.

_____. The silver elephant. 1964. (CME) 700 w.

_____. Stories to surprise you. 1964. (CME) 2000w.

_____. Three detective stories. 1964. (CME) 3000w.

_____. The vanishing lady [and other stories] 1964. (CME) 3000 w.

*Gordon, S. More signs; book 2 of a series on signs. 1971. (NR)

*Gordon, S. Signs: book 1 of a series on signs. 1971. (NR)

*Gordon, S. Signs of our times; book 3 of a series on signs. (NR)

Greatsinger, C. Machine-age riddles. 1973. (NR)

Heavey,R., editor. Teen-age tales. 2d ed. 1966. (TAT) Books A-C.

Hines, M.E. Skits in English as a second language. 1973. (REG)

Jerrome,E.G. Tales of escape. 1970. (PAC)

_____. Tales of flying. 1975 (PAC)

Jerrome, E.G. Tales of invention. 1973 (PAC)

_____. Tales of pirates. 1973. (PAC)

_____. Tales of rescue. 1972. (PAC)

_____. Tales of speed. 1973. (PAC)

_____. Tales of spies. 1972. (PAC)

Laubach, F.C. Everyday reading and writing. 1970 (NR-LL)

Laubach, F.C. In the valley. 2d ed. 1972 (NR) "Correlated reader to accompany Sounds and names of letters."

_____. New ways. 1968 (NR) "Correlated reader to accompany Long vowel sounds, skill book 3."

_____. People and places; 1968 (NR) "Correlated reader to accompany Other vowel sounds, skill book 4."

London, J. The call of the wild. (EL)

Okeke, U. Tales of land of death; Igbo folktales. 1971 (ZE)

Pauk, W. Getting the author's tone; is he humorous, serious, satirical? (SKAT) 1975

_____. Getting the main point; separating the wheat from the chaff. 1975. (SKAT)

_____. Perceiving structure; how are the ideas organized? (SKAT)

_____. Perceiving the author's intent; what is the author's real message? 1975 (SKAT)

_____. Reading between the lines; drawing correct inferences. 1975 (SKAT)

_____. Recognizing points of view; whose mind; where's he standing? (SKAT)

_____. Recognizing traits of character; how does the author build characters? 1975 (SKAT)

_____. Understanding figurative language; what effect did the author intend? 1975 (SKAT)

_____ Using the signal words; making transitional words work for you. 1975 (SKAT)

_____. Vocabulary in context; getting the precise meaning. 1975. (SKAT)

Pope, L. Tutor's sampler; materials to use in teaching students with reading problems, with perceptual problems, with specific readiness needs. 1973 (NR-LL)

Powell, W. Our world is small. 1964. (NR) (Note: Each page has one photograph and sentence)

Reader's Digest. Workers in the sky and other stories. 1964.

Stafford, V. Opening doors; correlated reader. 1969 (NR) "Correlated reader to accompany Special consonant sounds, skill book 5."

Strang, R. Teen-age tales. 3d ed. 1966. 6 volumes 1-6.

Wells, H.G. The time machine. (EL)

Wells, H.G. The war of the worlds. (EL)

Wister, O. The Virginian [abridged] 1964. (CME) 3000 w.

II. Consumer Information

Be informed on banking. 1970. (NR-LL)
Be informed on buying a house. 1970. (NR-LL)
Be informed on buying an auto. 1970. (NR-LL)
Be informed on finding a job. 1970. (NR-LL)
Be informed on money. 1970. (NR-LL)
Be informed on owning an auto. 1970. (NR-LL)
Be informed on personal credit. 1970. (NR-LL)
Be informed on renting a house. 1970. (NR-LL)
Be informed on social security and personal insurance. 1970 (NR-LL)
Be informed on taxes. 1970. (NR-LL)
Be informed on using measurements. 1970. (NR-LL)
Be informed on using the library. 1970. (NR-LL)
Be informed on wise buying. 1970. (NR-LL)

* Corr, F.A. Government services for consumers. 1973. (CES)

Francis, R. How to find a job. 1963. (NR)

* Johnson, T.A. Dollar power. 1973. (CES)

* Johnson, T.A. A place to live. 1973. (CES)

Joyce, D.P. Studying for a driver's license; simplified review of driver's manual...1973. (NR)

Laubach, F.C. City living. 1969 (NR) "Correlated reader to accompany Short vowel sounds."

McClintock, C. The poor pay and pay. 1969. (UA)

* Pagino, E.J. Car purchase and maintenance. 1973. (CES)

*Randall, R.W. Consumer purchasing. 1973 (CES)

*Randall, F. Getting a job. 1968. (PAC)

*Spitze, H.T. Where does the money go? 1969 (St-V)

*Stone, D. Viewing your career. 1973. (CES)

*Udvari, S.S. Buying guides. 1973. (FDS)

* _____. Family money management. 1973. (FDS)

* _____. Where to go, who to see, what to do. 1973. (FDS)

*Webb, E.J. Majority at 18. 1973. (CES)

III. Current events, Politics in the United States

*Baer, K. Government by the people. 1972. (NR)

_____. The people's power. 1972. (NR)

English Language Services. The presidency in conflict. (CME) 3000 w. 1965.

Kilbane, M. Police, courts and the ghetto. 1969. (UA)

Monte, A. Riots. 1970.(PAS)

*Murray, A. Black perspectives. 1971. (SBL)

_____. Major Black writers. 1971. (SBL)

_____. The scene. 1971. (SBL)

_____. The search. 1971. (SBL)

*Sterling, D. It started in Montgomery; a picture history of the Civil Rights movement. 1972. (FIR)

Titus, N. The police and us. 1963. (NR)

*Udvari, S. Being an informed citizen. 1973. (FDS)

IV. Health, Nutrition, Family life

*Baer, K. Prenatal care. 1973 (NR-HAB)

Be informed on marriage. 1970. (NR-LL)

Be informed on mental retardation. 1970. (NR-LL)

Be informed on nutrition. 1973. (NR-LL)

Bontrager, F.M. Can you give first aid? 1969 (NR)

*Clarion House. Family of five; how Eddie and Maria got more for their family with a second income. 1968. (AFF)

*_____. Head of household; how Nancy James learned to accept her responsibilities. 1968. (AFF)

*_____. Just married; how newlyweds Linda and Al learned to manage money. 1967. (AFF)

*_____. On your own; how Marcia learned to handle her money. 1968. (AFF)

*Clayton, T. What it takes; developing skills for contemporary living. 1972 (PAC)

MacVicar,J. The ghetto family. 1969. (UA)

*O'Connor,G. Helping your children; a basic guide for parents. 1966. (St-V)

*Phillips, M. The baby and the family. 1973. (NR-HAB)

*_____. Preventing mental retardation. 1971. (NR)

*_____. Unwed mother. 2d ed. 1973. (NR-HAB)

*_____. Planning your family. 1973. (NR-HAB)

*Shipstone, N. Conception and pregnancy. 1973. (NR-HAB)

*Simonnson,B. Good manners in the United States. 1961. (NR)

Sky, S.A. Health and the poor. 1969. (UA)

*Spitze, H.T. We are what we eat. 1969. (St-V)

*Udvari, S.S. Health, safety and sanitation. 1973. (FDS)

*Udvari, S.S. Understanding yourself. 1973. (FDS)

Williams, E.S. Venereal disease. 1969. (UA)

V. History and Biography(Lives of people, some famous, some not)

Bernard, J. Voices from the Southwest: Antonio Jose Martinez, Elfego Baca, Reies Lopez Tijerina. 1972. (FIR)

Boning, R.A. Blondin; hero of Niagara. 1972. (INC)

_____. Horror overhead. 1973. (INC) (Hindenburg)

_____. The long search. 1972. (INC)

Boning, R.A. 17 minutes to live. 1973. (INC)

_____. Titanic. 1974. (INC)

Brau, M. Island in the crossroads; the history of Puerto Rico. 1968. (ZEN)

*Buckmaster, H. The fighting congressmen: Thaddeus Stephens, Hiram Revels, James Rapier, Blanche K. Bruce. 1971. (FIR)

Chu, D. A glorious age in Africa; the story of three great empires. 1965. (ZEN)

_____. Passage to the Golden Gate; a history of the Chinese in America to 1910. 1967. (ZEN)

Cross, J. Justice denied; a history of the Japanese in the United States. 1972. (FIR)

Dobler, L. Great rulers of the African past. 1965. (ZEN)

Farquhar, M. The Indians of Mexico. (Note: Written as children's book) 1967.

Fleming, T. Give me liberty: Black valor in the Revolutionary War. 1971. (FIR)

Georgakas, D. The broken hoop; the history of Native Americans from 1600 to 1890, from the Atlantic Coast to the Plains. 1971. (ZEN)

_____. Red shadow; the history of Native Americans from 1600 to 1900, from the desert to the Pacific Coast. 1973. (ZEN)

*Graham, L. John Brown's raid; a picture history of the attack on Harper's Ferry. 1972 (FIR)

Halliburton, W.J. Harlem; a history of broken dreams. 1974. (ZEN)

*Harbison, D. Reaching for freedom; Paul Cuffe, Norbert Rillieux, Ira Aldridge, James McCune Smith. 1972 (FIR)

*Jefferson, M. Roots of time; a portrait of African life and culture. 1974. (ZEN)

*Koschnick, K. I am one of these. 1970. (NR)

*McCarthy, A. Worth fighting for; a history of the Negro in the United States. 1965. (ZEN)

* McGovern, A. The defenders: Osceola, Tecumseh, Cochise. 1970. (FIR)

*Meltzer, M. Remember the days; a short history of the Jewish Americans. 1974. (ZEN)

*Meltzer, M. Time of trial, time of hope; the Negro in America, 1919-1941. 1966. (ZEN)

_____. To change the world; a picture history of Reconstruction. 1973.

. Reading and conversation for intermediate and advanced students of English, about the U.S., its history, its people and its customs.. 1969.

* Ringstad, M. Claiming a right; stories of great American Indians. 1972. (NR)

* Spencer, P. 3 against slavery: Denmark Vesey, William Lloyd Garrison, Frederick Douglass. 1972 (FIR)

* Stanek, M. How immigrants contributed to our culture. 1970.

* Sterling, D. Lift every voice; the lives of Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. Du Bois, Mary Church Terrell, and James Weldon Johnson. 1965. (ZEN)

* _____. Four took freedom; the lives of Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, Robert Smalls, and Blanche K. Bruce. 1965. (ZEN)

* Sterling, P. The question of color; Marcus Garvey, Malcolm X. 1973. (FIR)

* Stibler, R. The spy, the lady, the captain and the colonel. 1970. (FIR)

* Watson, W.M. Martin Luther King. 1968. (NR)

* _____. We honor them. (NR)

* Weeks, D. Blacks in time; stories of Negroes in American history. 1969. (NR)

* Werstein, I. The storming of Fort Wagner. 1970. (FIR)

* White, A.T. The false treaty; the removal of the Cherokees from Georgia. 1970. (FIR)

* Whittaker, J. Patriots of the plains; Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, Chief Joseph. 1973. (FIR)

V.--Contemporary biographies:

Daylie, Holmes (Daddyo). You're on the air. 1970. (OD)

Deer, A. Speaking out. 1970. (OD)

Diaz, P. Up from El Paso. 1970. (OD)

Dunham, J. Someday I'm going to be somebody. 1970. (OD)

Ellis, J. Run for your life. 1970. (OD)

Geary, C. What I'm about is people. 1970. (OD)

Gibson, T. The Lord is my shepherd. 1970. (OD)

Hannahs, H. People are my profession. 1970. (OD)

Lopez, A. El rancho du muchachos. 1970. (OD)

Melendez, C. A long time growing. 1970. (OD)

Patterson, B. I reached for the sky. 1970. (OD)

Sagara, P. Written on film. 1970. (OD)

Stallworth, D. Look to the light side. 1970. (OD)

Thompson, C. New fields. 1970. (OD)

Vasquez, J.C. "Lone Eagle": my tribe.. 1970. (OD)

VI. Science

Eblen, W. The body breakers.(Chemical invasion). 1972. (PEN)

Be informed on pollution. 1974. (NR-LL)

Be informed on population. 1974. (NR-LL)

Branley, F.M. Reader's Digest Science Reader: blue book, green book, orange book, red book. 1961-1964. (RD)

Conant, R. Drugs: facts for decisions. 1971. (NR)

Phillips, M. VD; it could happen to you. 1971. (NR)

Sherman, A.C. Land and trash: our wounded land. 1972. (PEN)

Sorvall, V. How many are too many? 1971. (PEN)

U.S. Department of Agriculture. Simple home repairs...inside.

Williams, E.S. Narcotics and drug abuse. 1969. (UA)

SERIES and PUBLISHERS: Key to Abbreviations or acronyms used

AFF: Accent/Family Finances. Published by Clarion House, distributed by Follett, 1968-1970. 5th to 8th grade [Gunning Fog Index] Photographs indicate Chicago setting. Consumer financial problems worked out as long story-problems. Includes exercises.

CES: Consumer Education Series. Published by Pendulum Press (q.v.) in 1973. 7th to 8th grade reading level. Published for adults, but presently heavily used in upper grade centers in urban areas. Concentration on text, few photographs. Includes thoughtful exercises.

CME: Collier-Macmillan (publisher) English readers. This "graded series includes original and adapted short stories, articles, biographies, modern (?) novels and simplified classics." Vocabulary ranges from 2,000 to 4,000 words (though which basic word list used is nowhere mentioned).

EL: Elephant editions. Just large print editions of "classics." Resemble cover of coloring books in format. But titles used might prove of interest to our foreign students, since the authors are widely read in translation (e.g. Stephen Crane, Jack London, H.G. Wells).

FDS: Family Development Series. Steck-Vaughn publishes these consumer-oriented booklets. Generally 7th grade level, large type, attractive format. Examples of forms, schematics, appropriate to subject are thoroughly discussed. Abstract ideas are presented forcefully (no mean feat in Adult Basic Readers) particularly in Being an informed citizen and Understanding yourself.

FIR: Firebird series, published by Scholastic Book Services (Note the similarity between it and the Zenith series in format and content) 6th to 8th grade levels. Documents and drawings contemporary to times described illustrate the books. Level of writing approaches literary style. Thematic emphasis is on the history and biography of minority peoples in the United States (e.g. Native American, Spanish Speaking, Asian American and Black American).

IML: Institute of Modern Languages. Few examples presently, but several titles will be added in 1976/77. All texts are meant for students (adult) whose native language is other than English.

INC: Incredible series. True tales of mystery, adventure, escape, published in 1972 by Dexter and Westbrook, alas, with a children's picture book format, though intended for adolescent and adult readers.

NR ; NR-LL NR-HAB: New Readers Press. Publishing company totally involved in the preparation of Adult Basic Literacy materials. Their publications range from picture books with simple captions, in the New Readers, Laubach Literacy series to intercultural texts for intermediate readers.

The "Be informed series" consists of simple articles on consumer education adapted from the weekly newspaper "News for You." Format is similar to that of workbook with simple outline, short paragraphs, and examples of standard forms (e.g.: credit application, car loan, home mortgage forms) Each booklet is 40 pages long with 4 pages of review questions. All were published in 1970.

NR-HAB . New Readers--Having a Baby. Very short leaflets on conception, pregnancy, delivery, family planning. 3d grade reading level.

OD: Open Door Books. Published by Children's Press in 1970. Each of the 36 titles in this series, is a biography of a person from Black, Spanish-speaking, Native American or Asian American culture, many of whom are currently living and working in Chicago, all of whom have attained some dignity and worth in their life and on their job...Each is written very simply, with some dialogue and much truth told about their pasts. Of all the works described in these pages, these give the most personal feeling of what an ordinary life is like here in the United States. Through all of them runs a feeling of hopefulness.

PAC. Pacemaker. Fearon Press publishes this series of adventure stories. 2d to 4th grade level. Simple minded style and carton strip illustrations combine to produce an unremittingly dull series.

PEN: Pendulum Press publishes in a constantly attractive (though not always very sophisticated) format, materials at 4th through 8th grade level. Among their publications are the biographies in the Now Age Books, meant for high school students and adopted by Los Angeles County school systems for use with adolescents who are not literate. Other texts are those noted on page 9 and 10 on ecology (Total education in the total environment).

RG: Readers Digest. Readers Digest readings consist of 6 volumes of slowly increasing difficulty. Articles adapted in many cases from those which had originally appeared in more complex form in the Readers Digest. Each article is 2 to 5 pages long and is followed by a set of exercises meant to test comprehension. Books 1 and 2 build on an assumed vocabulary of 500 words, books 3 and 4, 1000 words, books 5 and 6, 2000 words. Starting with book 4, the Thorndike and Lorge Teacher's word book of 30,000 words is used as a base. (A very modest survey revealed that most students took two to three weeks to read one of the earlier books, were eager to start on another book, but found books 4 and 5 rather difficult) These are the most consistently popular works in the collection.

Readers Digest Science readers. The Digest assigns grade level to them in the form of small flying horses--three for green, representing third grade...students here as in all series will find their own level. Adapted

from stories in the Reader's Digest, the writing seems more slanted to children, but the Chicago Board of Education representatives state that these are used successfully with adults emerging into literacy. No exercises at the end of each article, just a suggestion for simple experiment using home materials.

SKAT: A skill at a time. Jamestown Publishers. Not a reader or story, but a collection of excerpts from the "classics," generally short paragraphs from the likes of Victory, Vanity Fair, Crime and Punishment. One multiple choice question appears at the end of each quoted paragraph.

TAT: Teen age Tales. Published by Heath and Co. in 1966. Aimed at the high school market and dated in format and illustration. However, the Central Y high school reading specialist has often found them helpful, because they included so many stories of such variety that students could find a few in each volume in which they could become absorbed. Many of the stories deal with white teen age America's world of proms and football, but there are some stories which deal with a more grown-up world of work. (Little readership for these volumes)

UA: Published by Pendulum Press in 1969. Small paperbacks about 60 pages in length, each one dealing with a different social problem nagging American cities today. Vocabulary, sentence and paragraph structure seems slightly more complex than advanced readers in Readers Digest series. Illustrated, no exercises. Students in the credit divisions often use these books for term-paper research. UA: Urban American series.

ZEN: Zenith books. Published by Doubleday, between 1967 and 1974. 6th to 8th grade reading level. Great respect in tone for the subject (history and biography of minority peoples in the United States) and for the reader (attractive page layout, distinctive illustrations).

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